

Focus

Revision-Chemical Test Methods for Designating Dangerous Waste

Background

In recent years, Ecology has received many requests for interpretation of the chemical testing methods for designating dangerous waste. Prompted by these requests, as well as by the amendments to the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* that became effective in November, 1995, Ecology has redrafted the guidance for chemical testing methods. These revisions are printed in Ecology publication #97-407, *Chemical Test Methods for Designating Dangerous Waste - WAC 173-303-90 and 100*. This guidance document will replace *Chemical Test Methods for Complying with Dangerous Waste Regulations*, publication #93-51.

This Focus sheet explains the main revisions to this guidance document. It also fulfills Chapter 173-303-110(4) WAC that requires Ecology to collect public comment on these changes. **The public comment period begins on Friday, February 21, 1997 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 1997.**

Highlights of the changes

New Title

To many users, the title, *Chemical Test Methods for Complying with Dangerous Waste Regulations*, implied that **all** areas of the regulations with testing requirements would be included in the document. The methods outlined actually cover only the testing requirements of WAC 173-303-090 and -100. These sections outline the characteristics and criteria that would make a solid waste be considered a hazardous waste. To reflect this, Ecology has changed the title to *Chemical Test Methods for Designating Dangerous Waste - WAC 173-303-090 and 100*.

New Introduction

The introduction now contains information, such as:

- ◆ references to other regulations that contain testing requirements;
- ◆ information about sample containers, handling, and preservation; and
- ◆ recommended minimum requirements for a quality assurance program and the associated quality control procedures for RCRA analyses.

Dangerous Waste Characteristic and Criteria Wastes

These sections now include:

- ◆ a clear regulatory interpretation on acceptable tests for characteristic and criteria wastes;
- ◆ the specific regulatory references; and
- ◆ analytical chemical methods.

Analysis for Halogenated Hydrocarbons

Past documents did not offer a clear explanation on what analyses are acceptable for designation purposes under the persistent criteria of halogenated hydrocarbons. The new draft of *Chemical Test Methods* contains a clear process for using analyses that are acceptable for designating a waste under this criteria.

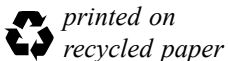
For more information

Call Imelda Ange at (360) 407-6117 to request a copy of the final draft of *Chemical Test Methods for Designating Dangerous Waste*, publication #97-407. Copies are limited to one (1) per request.

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You may comment on this document by:

Mail: Submit written comments to-

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FAX: Submit written comments to Michelle Elling at (360) 407-6715.

Internet: See the document on Ecology's Home Page

Review the document on Ecology's Home Page through the Internet at **<http://www.wa.gov/ecology>** *Chemical Test Methods for Designating Dangerous Waste* will be under *What's New* in the HWTR icon. Comments can be sent to Michelle Elling via the Internet at **mell461@ecy.wa.gov**